

Fenibury 10th Mo 3rd 1842

My Dear Friends

It seems trying to be thus near you without the opportunity of seeing you, but so it seems likely to prove, I came here two weeks ago, Hoping that some of your friends would be going up this fall whom I could accompany, this however is not likely to prove the case and I see no way but to give it up which I confess I do very reluctantly; having an unusually strong wish to visit Mansfield, but have travelled and spent so much, that I hardly feel warranted in taking the stage beside its staying all night on the way looks formidable; — I have not found that satisfaction in my visit here I could wish, as my sister and others, are so engaged in what they call reformatory, that there is neither room or time, for any thing else; besides as, I cannot sympathize with them in all their views or proceedings, I seem as an uncharitable heretic; who would oppose all improvements, or at least stand in the way of the good things introduced by those who are labouring to pull all down that they may be instrumental in rearing a more perfect fabric.

Sister even seems to fear any corrupting influence on children brought up in the principles of Truth, as these have been, But enough of this, and remember it is for no eyes but yours to be burned when read; lest it be seen hereafter.

I have not ~~stayed~~ visited much, returned last evening from N. Hoag's where I spent a few days engaged in nursing him as he had something like a felon on his thumb, with which he suffered very much for some days, but I opened it before leaving and tho' it discharged a good deal we hoped it did not come from the bone as felons do, the rest are pretty well. J. Hoag started for the west in company with S. Peasly a week ago to day, It seems like a great undertaking for one in his time of life; however if right, I hope he will be carried through, to the credit of the cause he has so long laboured in; alas! our poor Society is in a crippled state; yet I for one am not ready to see it laid waste or resolved into atoms, believing as I do there is still some salutary and that its institutions are as a hedge about us for good; let us then each one endeavour to act our part faithfully in the hope of adding to the harvest, which heaven will

the whole lump," It is very desirable to see a better state of things; but if we run in our own zeal, we shall be likely to incur the query "who hath required this at your hands?"

I suppose you see accounts of the proceedings of the Refractors at Lynn &c, tho' I do not pretend to say how far friends should suffer such unprovoked outrages, yet I am sorry to see they are resorting to law, fearing it is now, or will lead to a like spirit; Being acquainted with friends there especially those who are conspicuous members, I am not prepared to admit them a pack of ferocious savages, as Rogers considers them, yet under such aggravations, there is cause to fear lest all will be as prudent as we could wish; It really seems in these days as tho' persons were hardly safe from insult by their own fire-side; and from the air breathed in some places, we may fear total anarchy; but I try to hope it will not come in my day. Don't think I dwell always on the dark side of the picture, this is not my turn; but really when the atmosphere is tainted, free respiration is difficult, and I am ready to say with Camper, "My ear is pained, my soul is sick, be-"

By a letter lately received from Wm Doane we learn they were in Redstone country, had visited Wm Hall's graves, and intended being in Baltimore on the 27th, home about New Year.

Perhaps you know L Hallock has taken out an extensive tour into the North and Wiggins is now in the Southern part; P Palmer and wife with her, expects to go North this way, her husband with her, (short hand) — I wish it would suit you to make a visit here now, but suppose you will not till later by Meeting; the time when sectarians get together.

Rachel Robinson and Hoag desire their best love to you and Cynthia, to which mine is added;

It is now my intention to leave this place for New York next 3rd day, as I begin to feel anxious to get back tho' I would willingly stay another week, if I could visit you, but see no opening, nor would I wish any one to go on purpose to accommodate me; When I began I did not intend to send more than half a sheet, but having soon run over this must add another on which my loquacity may expend itself for the present.

As I heard through Mr Byrd that you got my letter
written while at Leeds, I may add that I spent nearly
3 months there enjoying some pleasures, and suffering some
pains; for tho' my connections are pretty comfortably sit-
uated yet all things are not as I could wish. My Mother
and Sisters are all in poor health, which with the hard
times prevented my going to Niagara as I intended; indeed
I felt quite willing to give it up. On the 1st of 9th moth
my eldest Brother and wife came with me in their
carriage to Rochester about 100 miles, here I spent two
weeks very pleasantly with some friends of mine; then
by canal and rail road came here, which from delays broken
canal high water &c took nearly a week, subjecting me to
much fatigue and some inconvenience, but no serious
difficulty; yet I can assure you travelling has its beset-
ments, as well as gratifications; It has been my lot
to see much of nature in her primitive simplicity, and
much of art in the works of man;

I am writing as fast as I can while Sister is
not being for a fugitive on her way to Canada.

All well as usual I'm much love &
remain your attached friend A King

North Ferrisburgh VT
Oct 4

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Stephen Mearns

Marshall Hall
St. Bernard

